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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/017W

-----D8B80C 121543Z /38

P 121539Z JUL 95

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0974

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 002172

E.O. 12356: DECL, 8/7/00

TAGS:PREL, PGOV, RW, CG

SUBJECT: THE GREAT LAKES ASSOCIATION IN REGIONAL  
DIPLOMACY

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT

2. DURING HIS BRIEF VISIT TO KIGALI, AMBASSADOR BOGOSIAN MET WITH SALVATORE MATATA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COMMUNITY OF GREAT LAKES STATES (CEPGL). MATATA REPORTED MUBUTU'S INSISTENCE THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN RWANDA AND ZAIRE ON REFUGEE AND BORDER ISSUES BE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CEPGL, AN ASSOCIATION WHICH HE HAS LONG DOMINATED. RWANDA WAS CHARY OF THE CEPGL CONNECTION FOR THAT VERY REASON, BUT GIVEN THE DIFFICULTY OF ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH ZAIREANS BY OTHER MEANS, HAD

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: HARMON E KIRBY  
DATE/CASE ID: 24 APR 2009 200103014

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SEEN THE UTILITY OF USING THAT FORUM UNCLASSED  
PRESENT AT THE RECENT MEETING OF CEPGL DEFENSE  
MINISTERS IN BUJUMBURA AND WAS ON HIS WAY BACK TO  
BUMUMBURA FOR A FOLLOW UP MEETING AT THE BRIGADE  
COMMANDER LEVEL IN WHICH MONITORING ALONG THE BORDER  
WAS TO BE COORDINATED AND DEFENSE INFORMATION SHARED.  
ALTHOUGH THE INTITIAL MEETING HAD BEEN QUITE COOL AND  
RESPECTIVE POSITIONS FAR APART, IT HAD RESULTED IN A  
VALUABLE EXCHANGE AND BROUGHT PRACTICAL RESULTS THROUGH  
FOLLOW-ON MECHANISMS.

3. MATATA FELT THAT THE CEPGL COULD BE A USEFUL CONDUIT  
FOR ADDRESSING THE REGIONAL DIMENSIONS OF THE RWANDA  
PROBLEM. IT HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING AN ORGANIZATION  
ALREADY IN PLACE, WITH A TRACK RECORD OF BEING AN  
EFFECTIVE ARENA FOR DISCUSSING DIFFERENCES BETGWEEN  
STATES IN THE REGION. HAVING A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT,  
IT COULD TRACK PROGRESS ON AGREED POSITIONS, RATHER  
THAN HAVE SUCH AGREEMENTS IGNORED AFTER MEETINGS OF  
DECISION MAKERS AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE JANUARY SUMMIT  
CONVENED BY MOI IN NAIROBI. SINCE ITS PROCEDURES WERE  
ESTABLISHED AND ITS PERSONNEL KNOW, PROGRESS IN  
CONFLICT RESOLUTION COULD HAPPEN WITHOUT FANFARE AND  
SUBSEQUENT DISAPPOINTMENT WHICH ACCOMPQIED LARGER  
CONVENTIONS, LIKE THE REFUGEE CONFERENCE IN BUJUMBURA.  
MATATA DID NOT EXCLUDE THE EFFICACY OF UN-SPOSNOSRED  
CONFERENCE OR CHIEF OF STATE SUMMITS BUT SUGGESTED  
THAT THE CEPGL COULD BE AN ARENA FOR ELABORATING AREAS  
OF AGREEMENT OR DELINEATING POINTS OF CONTENTION TO BE  
DISCUSSED AT SUCH MEETINGS, WHILE PROVINDING CHANNELS  
FOR FOLLOWING UP ON RESULTS OF LARGER CONVOCATIONS. HE  
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SAID HE HAD CUT HIS STAFF BY TWO THIRDS; THE TRIMMER  
OPERATION WAS BETTER EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH INTERSTATE  
DIPLOMACY THAN WAS THE MORE AMBITIOUS ORGANIZATION HE  
HAD INHERITED WITH ITS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL  
AGENDA.

4. COMMENT. MATATA'S ANALYSIS WAS NO-DOUBT SELF-SERVING, BUT IT IS TRUE THAT RWANDAN AND ZAIREAN LEADERS HAVE MET MORE OFTEN AT CHIEF OF STATE AND

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MINISTERIAL LEVELS UNDER CEPGL AUSPICES THAN OTHER MEANS. CEPGL HAS ALSO SO FAR PROVIDED THE ONLY CONCRETE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISMS AMONG ALL THE PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD AT VARIOUS REGIONAL CONCLAVES. WE WOULD LET KINSHASA COMMENT ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH ZAIRE REALLY PREFERENCES TO USE CEPGL AS AN INSTITUTION OR FORMAT FOR DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER MODEST ITS REAL ACHIEVEMENTS, CEPGL HAS BEEN ABLE TO BRING PARTIES TOGETHER. AS WE CONSIDER UN AND OAU SPONSORSHIP OF REGIONAL INITIATIVES, WE SHOULD NOT IGNORE THE UTILITY OF KEEPING CEPGL AS PARTNER TO THE PROCESS OF REGIONAL DIALOGUE.

5. MATATA'S MEETING WITH BOGOSIAN FOLLOWED BRIEF MEETINGS THE WEEK BEFORE WITH AID OFFICIALS MCALL, GOLDEN AND HJELT AT WHICH HE ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN PUTTING BACK TOGETHER HIS RANSACKED SECRETARIAT. AT OUR SUGGESTION HE HAS NOW SUBMITTED A MODEST BUDGET FOR FUNDING OF BASIC OFFICE EQUIPMENT (REQUEST HAS BEEN HAND CARRIED BY MR. NYIBIZI TO AID/MCCALL). HELPING CEPGL BE EFFECTIVE IS A MOST USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE IN THIS REGION. WE URGE THE QUICKEST POSSIBLE

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AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO MATATA'S REQUEST.  
RAWSON

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